

First Congregational Church  
Canandaigua, Ontario County  
New York

HABS. No. 5-10-11

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HABS  
NY,  
35-CANADA,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 2, New York State

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Walter H. Cassebeer, District Officer  
84 Exchange Street, Rochester, N. Y.

First Congregational Church  
North Main Street  
Canandaigua, Ontario County -  
New York

Owner: Congregational Church

Date of Erection: 1812

Architect: No record

Builder: Col. Abner Bunnell

Present Condition:

Number of Stories: one

Materials of Construction: Brick

Other Existing Records: See text; see Georgian Period,  
Part 5, plate 1.

Additional Data: See following page.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
Canandaigua, N. Y.

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The meeting house was built in 1812 at a cost of \$5600.00, on land bought of Charles Cameron for \$1,100. The name of the architect is unknown. The builder was Colonel Abner Bunnell. The meeting-house as first erected was very much in external appearance as now, and it stands a noble monument to the faith, liberality, and taste of the people of the olden time. That a building erected by a struggling Society in 1812 could endure for nearly 125 years, and remain as satisfying to the eye of the youngest generation, as it is revered in the heart of the oldest among us, is something that will not be said of much of the end-of-the-century architecture.

Only once has the capacity of the meeting-house been enlarged, and that was in 1848, when the edifice was extended sixteen feet to the west. Previous to that, however, the interior had undergone some changes to meet the changing taste of worshippers or to enhance their comfort. In 1824, the high pulpit had been replaced by one of more modern design, and the sounding-board and gilded dove that surmounted it, removed.

Ruth MacBean Benson  
HISTORIAN.

*Received 1936, H.C.F.*